



Earth First!

Action Update

30p

November '95 No 22

'Rydym yn dod am dy walt'

NEWBURY CLEARANCE WORK STARTING NOW!

The route of the proposed Newbury Bypass, Berkshire, is set for imminent trashing - unless we ALL stop it. The pro - roads lobby such as the British Roads Federation, are spending vast amounts of time and money campaigning FOR the road. Stakes are high, success for them means any opposition to their plans can ultimately be ignored. In stopping them, the power of the road lobby would be destroyed. Some of the most beautiful and important land left in this country would also be saved.

The campaign against the bypass has experienced a major legal setback as the EC dropped 40 different complaints issued to them (still believe we live in a 'democracy'?). However, one last legal hope is that the road will be shelved due to cuts in the budget (November 28th). Unfortunately, clearance work on the route looks likely to start around the 6th - 8th November. People are desperately needed to stop this work. The contract is set to go to Costain. If you can't get to Newbury they've got an office near you! Go and occupy it. A Highways Agency source suggests that this "preliminary clearance" (trashing) contract is for £6m. Such contracts are never normally more than £0.5m. Looks like they're expecting trouble doesn't it?

There are 7 camps along the route and they urgently need your support. If you've never been to a road protest camp before don't worry, just give the Third Battle of Newbury office a ring and talk to them. They are arranging regular training and route walks - go along! As well as people, equipment and money are desperately needed. Old marquees, blankets, CB radios, bikes, plastic sheeting, scaffolding, computers, camping stoves - anything you can think of! Get in touch with the Third Battle of Newbury now and get on the emergency phone tree. Telephone 01635 45544/45545. Make cheques out to Third Battle of Newbury, and send to PO BOX 5520, Newbury, Berkshire. RG14 7YW.



OPENCAST EVICTIONS

From Oct. 23 - 27, the joint longest eviction in the British Isles since World War 2 was contested between anti open cast protesters and 'Celtic Energy'. After months of the squatters blocking their corporate rape of the land, C.E. moved in to try and clear the site of all life. As they came in, every morning, they didn't anticipate the intense resistance to their no expenses spared operation. They made slow and expensive gain despite throwing loads of money, equipment, armies of veteran security, tooling up bailiffs and the scab climbers used at Stanworth. Small but beautifully formed, Brynhenllys' limited space saw concentrated struggle. The length and ferocity of the eviction was made by the human element - on the ground, in barricaded buildings and in the trees.

The first and second days saw site access contested effectively, although they eventually won through. Day two heated up with over 20 arrests, most were locals. Some security were nicked for sexually molesting children. Violence to pensioners, toddlers was obviously acceptable. Well barricaded and locked - in buildings took all day two to evict. They were re occupied and defended the next day.

Cherry pickers, chainsaw wielding bailiffs and £300 a day climbing scum took a while to be effective. On the first day, unwalked and undefended trees were lost. Lessons were learnt. Progress was slow as every tree and walkway was defended: weight of numbers held back climbers. Some went for high tree sits, most stayed mobile re grouping to defend the next target. Chainsaws were foiled by getting onto and around the branches. Unclipped protesters were harder to cherry pick - climbers were less ready to wrestle up high. Heavy S. Wales wind and rain helped out in confrontation as climbers bottled out of going up to 'unsafe' conditions. Days of exposure took toll on protesters. C.E. stranded people at the top of trees over night by cutting lower branches, denying food, shelter and other human rights whilst security got violent at night. As well as getting stuck in local campaigners, food and hospitality carried the campaign through these difficult times: the battle went on.

After 5 days the camp was overrun. Protesters have moved on to Selar to re group and prepare for future action. The lessons learnt at Brynhenllys will pay dividends at Selar which is under imminent eviction threat. There, we'll give them another welcome in the hillsides. For up to date info on the eviction of Selar ring: 0589 114899, 01685 873993, 01222 383363.

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ALL ON FOR WHAT THEY

The mass Earth First! action at Whatley Quarry, Amey Roadstone Corporation's flag ship quarry in the Mendips, is set to bring together campaigners from all over the UK, and beyond. ARC wish to double the size of the quarry so that it is visible from the moon. A previous attempt to double the size of the quarry was blocked by John Gummer (Environment Minister) after a strong campaign. This major action will not only put ARC on the defensive, but also send shock waves into the aggregates industry. The planning application is also being fiercely opposed by local parish councils, the district council and Bath City Council.

On Sunday December 3rd we'll be planning actions and explaining the issues surrounding quarrying the Mendips. Turn up at midday. We'll be camping near the quarry (ring for location) so bring waterproofs. WARM clothes, tents, vehicles and anything else to make the day run smoothly. On Monday 4th we'll close down the quarry - this will be hectic so it is essential people attend on the Sunday to get clued up. Absolutely anyone (well almost... sorry M15 but we know who you are now) is welcome. This will be a great introduction for newcomers to direct action. Organise transport from your area and bring others along. For further details ring 01935 625074. There will be a planning meeting on Sunday November 12th.

ETHINOG MEADOWS

Ethinog Meadows in Bangor, Gwynedd, are still the main focus of attention for the Gwynedd EFi. The area has been proposed for a development of executive housing, on a 30 acre wild flower and woodland site rich in wildlife, and for which there has been much public opposition. There was a small, wet, but successful five-day 'Land is Ours' occupation on the site in September to highlight the scheme. Other stunts this month included an office occupation of the headquarters of North Wales Housing Association in Llandudno where Gwynedd EFi held talks with the bods who are proposing this lunatic destruction. More info: 01248 600286.

CARMEL WOODS

The 12 year battle to save Carmel Woods in the Gwernllys Valley from quarrying has finally been won. Wimpey Minerals have discarded plans for a limestone quarry at the site. Of course this is a result of the company's commitment to preserving such areas of outstanding ecological value - NOT!! The plans were abandoned on the condition that local campaigner Pat Langford, dropped her High Court action contesting the planning permission for the existing quarry at Cilgrynn. Although the validity of the Interim Development Order will never be tested in the courts, this has been heralded as an important victory for the conservation movement. The future of the woods, unique turlough lake and other SSSI's nearby has been safeguarded. Further threat comes from our old friends Celtic Energy whose proposed on-peak site at Tir Dafydd could affect the hydrology of the turlough lake. The Campaign for the Protection of the Gwernllys Valley will continue to monitor and campaign for these and other sites: Contact 01558 685353.

WELLS ROAD

Twelve people opposing the Wells 'Relief' Road were arrested at an action on the site in September for Aggravated Trespass. Their case was due to be heard on 23 October, but has now been postponed until January, probably in order to dissuade them from protesting further until their cases get dropped. Due to the number of people now on bail, extra help is urgently needed. Also, an eviction order on the campaign squat has been thrown out by the High Court as the County Council failed in its duty to rehouse the children living there. Further info and offers of support on: 01749 675058.

FASLANE

Thirteen and a half year old Faslane Peace Camp in Dumbartonshire is feeling the sharp end of a clamp down on its activities through persecution from the 'authorities'. One example of this was the £500 fine imposed on a protester for fire-breathing at the south gate of the nuclear submarine base. The protester was originally charged with six counts of assault for this peaceful activity but eventually got convicted of a breach of the peace. The camp is fast running out of money to pay for these ludicrous court appearances. Please send some dosh. Meanwhile, the 'Alien' action in mid-October went off with a bang, and a future one day 'Hootenanny' is taking place on 5 November with all sorts of creative workshops going on. Possibility of more direct actions: 01436 829091.

MOTOR SHOW

Brrrrrr, brrrrrr: it's that time of year again to promote mass destruction of the planet through motor car use. On the 19th October, six people entered the Motor Show (London) undercover, and creatively disrupted the Global Motor Industry Conference. This was where all the top motor industry chiefs were gathered, cabinet minister Ian Laing, eventually had to be escorted out under police protection. On 25 October three people entered the show dropping banners on the display stands highlighting carnage. Other large demos within the show were prevented by a very large police presence who arrested people randomly. The final day on 29 October saw an action saying 'good riddance' for another year.

EVICIONS ALERT!

The residents of Holtfield in Swansea, West Glamorgan, are due to be evicted and have their homes demolished at any moment. This small community was due to be evicted on October 18th, but 150 people turned away bailiffs. Certified bailiffs have now been appointed to carry out the eviction without prior notice. Property developer Tim Jones, has been refused planning permission to build executive mansions on the site. Nevertheless he intends to continue with his plans, making 43 people homeless in the process. Help needed soon. Phone 01792 234027 / 233596 / 234059.

The Kings Cross Women's Centre in London is facing eviction. Housewives in Dialogue (HiND), the charity running the centre, cannot afford the Community Housing Association's (CHA) demand for a

commercial rent of £6,000 per year. The CHA only paid £14,000 for the premises and stands to make a hefty profit. The centre's activities are essential at a time of cutbacks, growing poverty, racist attacks and sexual violence. To protest against this decision, write to Mick Sweeney, The Chief Executive, CHA, 100 Chalk Farm Rd., London NW1 8EH. For info phone: Kings Cross Women's Centre 0171 837 7509.

A30 RELIEF ROAD

Three camps defending land in the path of the proposed A30 Relief Road near Exeter, Devon, are awaiting news of which consortium will win the contract to build the road. There are expected to be many companies involved with each consortium, so watch this space for info on who to target. Diggers (human ones) are required for the network of tunnels being prepared. The A30 camp is also continuing work previously done by Road Alert. They're starting nationally regional networks for eco-activity. People are needed. Contact the A30 now to get it off the ground: 01404 815729. Oh, and by the way, keep away from the Death Caps, day-trippers.

THE LAND IS OURS

On October 7 and 8, The Land is Ours staged 'D-Day landings' in Oxford. Land annexed by Magdalen College was invaded by punts and rowing boats and reclaimed for public use. The demonstration was in protest at the college, which in the 1970's cut the row in two by building a moat across the water meadows. The occupation of a Scottish Loch island is still planned, and is likely to happen soon; so keep eyes and ears peeled for details! info: 01856 722016

END THE ARMS TRADE

The Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) held a Student and Youth gathering on October 21/22 at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston. The gathering ended stylishly with actions against British Aerospace (BAe) on the 23rd. CAAT also led a silent march and nonviolent sit down blockade of the Copex arms fair on the 31st. From November 11th and 12th a weekend of actions are planned urging the Government to cancel the BAe contract to supply Hawk aircraft to Indonesia. By doing so, BAe are directly arming the Suharto dictatorship which rules Indonesia - the cause of mass genocide in East Timor. Info: 0171 281 4369.

THANET WAY

The campaign against the A299 at Thanet Way, Kent, continues despite increased police attention and arrests. One campaigner, Iggy, is now on remand and is soon due for sentencing with the prospect of being behind bars in the near future. Six people arrested at the mass trespass in July will go on trial at Canterbury Magistrates on Dec. 4th - 6th. They were arrested for conspiring to rave under section 63 CJA. Bail conditions put on these people have no relevance to their charge. There are 21 police witnesses? Where from? A demonstration is planned for November 3 in support of Iggy. Actions also planned on 15th and 16th November. Support is desperately needed. Get down there! Contact: 01227 463368.

M11, EAST LONDON.

A recent council report revealed that the M11 link will be contested to gridlock the day it opens. Its line will know the 400 homes, green spaces, parks and trees have been destroyed for a worthwhile operation!! Actions on 27th Nov & 2nd Dec to mark the eviction of Claremont. Support M11 prisoners: Jim Chambers (PV 2504) has been moved to HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight. P030 5PB. He'll be out on November 15th. Stuart Edwards (PB 1864) is still at HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Road, London N7 8TT but will be moved to Kent soon. INFO 0181 527 4896

How to Contact Earth First! Action Update

By phone: 01222 383363; by post: Action Update, PO Box 7, Cardiff, CF2 4XX; by fax: 01222 640666; or finally by email: 'actionupdate@gn.apc.org'. Articles should reach us before the 20th of the month for inclusion in next months AUI. For replies please enclose a SAE.

Send subscriptions/requests for bulk copies/ distribution enquiries to Dead Trees EFi! To subscribe to the free e-mail server give us your details. Please send us a donation or stamps if you can afford it (we rely on getting at least £50 a month in donations to be able to send free subscriptions to community groups etc.).



Reclaim the Streets!!

STREETS RECLAIMED

Manchester successfully reclaimed one of their main streets on Oct. 21st - highlighting the need for a pedestrianised system in the city centre. They were joined by Birmingham critical massers who cycled up through the Peak District - okay, they used the train too!

600 people danced and partied in the street until 5 pm to live bands and sound systems. Then, proceeding to Albert Square, they raved until morning. Police presence was low, although the 'fat controller' did threaten the sound system. Quick cuffs were used on a man whose joy blocked the way. Apart from this, a great success.

500 people joyfully blocked one of Bristol's main (and poshest) streets on October 28th. The police were powerless to act as they parlied to the pedal-powered 'Rinky Dink' sound system, a bizzare brass band, a cello and a Children's puppet show. The desire to play has returned...

M65, LANCASHIRE

There have been no more actions since the demolition of the barn in the route of the M65 at Guide, Blackburn. The Stanworth Valley eviction cases have been adjourned until January 22nd and other court cases are still in progress. Court action against Tarmac, Group 4 and the DoT for assaults committed early in 1994 are progressing despite the defendants' noncooperation. They have failed to deliver witness statements and as a result the trial has been postponed until next year to give them more time - they've had a year, how much more time do they need? Phone 0161 273 8338 / 01254 582027

WYNDHAM HILL

Yet again, Wyndham Hill in Yeovil, Somerset is under threat from the developers. This time a 'relief road' has been tagged onto the back of a massive shopping development proposed by a Scottish company, Peastons. If this development is given the green light it will mean the destruction of Riverside Walk, a green area used by people of all ages. The woodland habitat of the area contains mature oak, ash and beech trees and supports a great diversity of animals including badgers, bats, owls and, at present, an egret. The road, which is estimated to solve traffic problems for only 10 years, will cut through the east side of the hill. The lower slopes are also to be developed, leaving only the very top untouched. Actions are presently being planned with the Plymouth Coalition against the CJA. For info contact: South Somerset EFI 01935 825074

STUDENT GATHERING

The Green Student Network is an affiliation of student environmental groups, EFi Groups and concerned people who meet twice a year for a weekend of fun, games and workshops. The next GSN gathering is on the weekend of the 24th - 26th November at Alcuin College, York University. People are to arrive on the Friday night. There will be a day of workshops on a variety of subjects centring around campaigns, lifestyle, philosophy and practical aspects, followed by a social on the Saturday night. On Sunday, once people's heads have settled down, there are more workshops finishing sometime in the afternoon. There is scope for an action on the Monday. Food is vegan, and £10 will cover costs. There will be a creche available if people get in contact in advance. For further info contact Jim or Laura on 01904 634073 or Email msh101@york.ac.uk.

NO DERBY BYPASS

Actions have started again at the A564 Derby Bypass after a quiet summer. On October 6th a Tarmac board meeting was combined with a meeting of their 'Environmental Advisory Panel' (!) Protesters greeted them and 15 people successfully stopped a concrete pour. The Board members' tour of the route was diverted, avoiding an unplanned rendezvous with digger divers. Activists had previously refused to attend this greenwash exercise with Sir John Banham, Chairman of Tarmac. He told two of them he planned to plant trees next to the completed road. Sir JB was hurt when his offer of lunch was turned down. The fact that Tarmac has an 'Environmental Advisory Panel' and that the Chairman of the board of directors attempted to placate protesters is a sure sign that they are running scared. Actions continue but as yet there is no permanent camp. More people are desperately needed. 01332 601871

LEEDS OPEN CAST

The campaign against opencast mining in West Yorkshire is continuing. It is suspected that Rackwood Colliery Company are planning to start work soon since there are also proposals to build a motorway over the site once it has been mined. During recent actions the treehouses in Hawk's Nest Wood, Garforth, have been destroyed and only one remains. Much more help is needed. Contact Cornerstone on 0113 2629355.

DEFEND YOURSELF!

A book titled 'How to Defend Yourself in Court' by Michael Randle has recently been published by The Civil Liberties Trust (ISBN 0 900137 41X). This book is essential reading for everyone who needs a fresh insight into the legal system, especially if you're involved in a court case! If you're a defendant or an advisor, get reading. You'll find out when and why things happen, and how to stay in control. The book is priced £4.99 from The Civil Liberties Trust, 21 Tabard Street, London SE1 4LA

VICTORY IN BRIGHTLINGSEA

From January 1995 live animals were exported through the port of Brightlingsea in Essex. Mass protests against the exports have occurred every day. On Friday 27th October 1995 it was announced that live animal shipment would stop. Over the months, hundreds of protesters have been arrested, stretching police resources to their limit. The exporter, Roger Mills has stopped further exports as the police refused to protect all of his lorries. He's gone bankrupt - oh dear!

THE EDITORIAL

Well it's that time of the year again, so you don't need to think about what to buy Uncle Arthur for Christmas but, whether you and your EFi group want to take over producing Action Update next year. This would be an ideal job for a few burnt out activists looking for a less hectic existence. It really is a doddle once you've got the mailing list & the computer stuff sorted and we'll help do all that, so what's stopping you? We would be looking to hand over the AU next March so get thinking. It really is stress free - now were did I put those tranquilizers... Thank's to everybody who sent us money last month. Unfortunately we're still skint, more money is always needed to help produce inserts and stuff. See you at Whatley Quarry!

Disclaimer: Come up my tree and I'll fucking laugh at you!

DIARY DATES

WEEKLY THINGS

Every Tuesday: weekly vigils/actions, 5-7.30 pm - outside French Embassy - 58 Knightsbridge, London - Against Nukleier Testing, Youth CND: 0171 607 3616.

Every Friday: 10-11am Anti Nukleier Testing Vigil outside the French Consulate in Edinburgh (11 Randolph Crescent).

NOVEMBER

31st Oct-5th Nov: Earth Nights. ELF's and pixies help nature strike back!

3rd Fri: M66 Extension Shut Down. 0161 627 4862.

4th - 5th (Weekend) : DIY Gathering London, Venue to be announced. 0171 793 7343.

5th Sun: Animal Rights Coalition Campaigners Conference. 1pm East Oxford Community Centre, Princes St. 01865 723236.

8th-9th: Picket of 'Management Summit 95' 8th/9th, 9am-11am Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, London W1 (Hyde Park Corner tube) executives from Nestle, McDonalds etc will be speaking. 0171 7131269

10th - 12th: Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp. 'Women Crossing Paths' Info Share and networking. 01734 724021/ 0117 8246157.

12th Sun: 4th Anniversary of the Dili Massacre, East Timor, Actions Planned 10am 834 0295.

13th Mon: Justice for Keith Mann (Sentenced to 14 years for damaging a meat truck & Escaping from custody). 9am Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London.

15th Weds - 16th Thurs: Action at Thannet Way Kent. Accommodation available (not in trees) 01227 463368.

19th Sun: Campaign to free Vanunu Mordechai Benfit Gig (Sentenced to 18 years for speaking to the press about Israel's Nukleier Weapons programme). 7.30pm Camden Centre, Camden Town Hall, Euston Road London. 0171 378 9324.

24th Fri: Critical Mass Ride To The Economics Madhouse, London 5.45pm Waterloo.

24th - 25th: Green Student Network Gathering, York. 01904 634073.

24th - 26th: Seafield Peace Camp. Winter Warming for Wild 'Witchy' Womyn. The 5th Birthday Camp! 01706 371387.

27th Mon. Action at the M11. 0181 518 8222

30th - December 3rd: Actions at Menwith Hill Womyn's Peace Camp 01706 371387.

DECEMBER

2nd Sat: Action at the M11. 0181 518 8222.

Sun 3rd: Bike ride from Newbury to Whatley Quarry. 0171 249 3779.

Sun 3rd - Mon 4th: National Earth First! Action - Shut Whatley Super Quarry! In the Mendips Somerset 01935 825074

6th-7th: Green Party Benefit Gigs, Kentish Town Forum, London. ToFu Love Gigs, Doggy... 0171 272 4474

7th Thurs: No Arm to Indonesia, Lobby of Parliament 0171 281 0297

9th Sat: Direct Action Conference Brighton. 01273 685913.

21st Thurs: West Midlands Environmental Groups Eco 'Christmas Party!' at X's Night Club, Auckinleck Sq. Five Ways, Birmingham. £4.50 Unwaged £5.50 Waged 0121 378 5558

RESIDENTS AGAINST THE M74

Glasgow City Council have given the go-ahead for a TEN LANE motorway cutting through the south side of the city. The aim is to cut the present route by ten minutes! The Labour controlled City Council ignored their manifesto - voting 9-4 in favour of the 4.8 mile road, costing £250 MILLION! This will make it the most expensive road in Europe. It will destroy 27 homes, churches and listed buildings as well as local communities on the south side of Glasgow.

Arrogant councillors are refusing to meet the locals or visit the site. Local support is growing rapidly. Residents are furious that £250 m is spent on a road whilst Glasgow's housing problem continues to be ignored.

Labour councillors main concerns are to promote tourism and big business as opposed to the interests of the local people. Locals warned "tourists don't visit war zones... the only overseas visitors this city will have will be environmental protesters and journalists." The council haven't learnt anything from Pollack. Campaigners are calling on people to join what is to be the "largest Scottish land agitation since the eighteenth century." Many buildings need squatting. Contact 0141 4241797, 0141 423078, 0141 5501745, 0141 2265066

A WIN IN WINDSOR

Twenty oaks will be saved after The Crown Estate reconsidered their plans to destroy the trees in Windsor Great Park. 48 other oaks and 105 young lime trees will be replanted. Protesters have been occupying the site for the past three months. This victory clearly highlights the effectiveness of direct action and that our actions can have an effect on the future. There is some unhappiness as the Estate failed to say exactly how many lime trees will be felled. Protesters now want assurance that these trees will be allowed to live out their natural lives. 041 518699 / 01635 521770

M66

The Budget and financial costs are the issues currently being targeted by protesters against the M66 Greater Manchester ring road extension. The campaigners are targeting MPs - writing letters to press that part one of the scheme, rumoured to be dropped until the next financial year, will be scrapped. The extension is planned to cost £76m. Protesters are warning that it will cost much more - they will see to it that it does! Regular actions are planned kicking off with a big 'un on Nov. 3rd. A show of strength is needed ensuring that work is stopped in the run up to the Budget. There was a picket at Ashton Magistrates Court on Oct. 26th in support of arrested protesters. Support forthcoming actions - show the government how it will cost more than £76m. 0161 6274862, 0161 6284727

PRISONER SUPPORT

Mumia Abu-Jamal remains on death row in America for a crime he didn't commit. Protests continue around the world, we must keep up the pressure here too. Write to Friends of Move at: PO BOX 3069, London SW9 8LU.

Keith Mann is still doing 14 years for damaging a meat truck and escaping from custody. His sentence was not for what he did, but for the State thought he might do in the future. Write to "Justice for Keith Mann" c/o ICA, PO Box 1135, Downs View Rd, Hassocks, W Sussex BN8 8AA for more info.

Jim Chambers and Stuart Edwards continue to serve time for alleged criminal damage on the M11. See M11 article.

The anti-roads movement faces the possibility of its first prisoner, a year after the CJA became law. Iggy, from Thanet Way, has been remanded for two charges of aggravated trespass and breaking bail conditions. He will be sentenced on November 3rd at Canterbury court. The Thanet Way campaigners have called for a national demo outside the court. Iggy's prison address (until November 3 at least) is: David Hilton LW 0848, HMP Canterbury, Kent, CT 1 1PJ.

NO MORE ROADS SHOW

A new roadshow, previously 'The Combination', has been set up to help everyone involved or interested in all forms of non violent direct action. The roadshow has two main functions:

To help existing groups or campaigns by providing low-cost workshops on every aspect of planning or taking action. This includes legalities, support roles, media work etc.

To help groups and campaigns draw in more people. They can visit your campaign to set up public meetings (including an introduction to NVDA) or visit schools, colleges, gigs festivals etc. Talks, videos and info on the many forms of direct action are available to show how everyone can play a part. If you could use their help, or if you would like to spend some time working with them. Write to End Cottage, Wood Green, Long Stratton, Norfolk NR15 2RR Tel: 01508 531636.

LE PETIT MERDE CHIRAC

France has detonated its third nuke in the Pacific, sparking more protests around the world. In Britain hundreds of protesters demonstrated at Chequers during a date between Major and Chirac. 12 arrests were made as some protesters broke through security to enter the gardens. As a result of the meeting, Major has pledged his support to French Nuke testing and is showing off that France and Britain have entered into Nuke cooperation and a new "entente cordiale". More actions are sure to follow thanks to Johnny's diplomatic efforts. Contact Youth CND at 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ, (0171) 607 3166.

THE FLOWERPOT TRIBE

Newcastle EFI have reformed and are back on the case. Their first mission is to stop an ice rink being built on Leazes Park which includes a 300 year old willow tree. The developer (also the owner of Newcastle United) has bribed the council into selling him the public land. The group are involved in local permaculture, agenda 21, critical mass and garden eco-magic so if you're up that way, get involved! 0191 273 4997

ESSENTIAL READING

For those of you looking to catch up on what else is happening out there in the real world (ie. not the plastic, television version) try getting hold of: Do or Die - An essential read with in-depth analysis of the UK and international Earth First! scene. Send £2 payable to Earth First! at: South Downs EFI, c/o Prior House, 6 Tibury Place, Brighton, BN2 2GY. The Earth First! Journal - The international Earth First! publication. \$35 (US) from: Earth First! Journal, POB 1415, Eugene OR 97440, USA.

SchNews - The weekly publication from Brighton with news of anti - Criminal Justice Act and other issues around the UK. Send twenty 1st class stamps to: SchNews, PO BOX 2600, Brighton, East Sussex: BN2 2DX.

Squall - The nearest we've got to an alternative newspaper - £10 for 4 issues from: Squall, PO BOX 8958, London. N19 5AW. Bad Attitude - Radical Women's Newspaper. £6 from: Bad Attitude, 121 Raiton Road, London. SE24 0LR.



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WHATLEY SHUT DOWN Dec 3-4

On December 3rd/4th, Earth First! will be having a "national" action to shut Whatley Quarry, near Shepton Mallet in Somerset. This quarry supplies much of the stone used to build roads in the UK and is devastating a large area of the Mendip Hills. Amey Roadstone Corporation (ARC), the owners of the quarry, are applying to double its size. To highlight this, and to make sure it is stopped, we hope to stage the biggest environmental direct action in Britain, ever.

WHY WHATLEY QUARRY?

Whatley Quarry is the showcase quarry of ARC (owned by Hansons). It is four times bigger than their next biggest site and one of the biggest quarries in Europe. The quarry produces 14 thousand tonnes of aggregate per day and roadstone from it was used to build the roads that trashed Twyford Down and Solsbury Hill. The planned expansion will double the hole's already huge size until it can be seen from the moon.

If the expansion goes ahead, the quarry will remove yet more of the Mendip Hills, threatening 6000 year Asham Wood. Quarrying below the water table will also effect the water supply to 300,000 people in Bristol and North Somerset and endanger the historic springs in Bath and Wells.

Public Support - Of course the effects of quarrying such as noise, dust, ground vibration, high volume lorry traffic, and the hole itself will be most felt by locals. Most are vehemently against the quarry's expansion. The local parish councils voted against the expansion, turning down £ 450,000 worth of bribes. Mendip District and Bath City Councils are also opposed to the expansion. The expansion would destroy the historic lane between the two local villages, Mells and Chantry, separating the communities.

ACTIONS SO FAR

The campaign against Whatley Quarry is one of EF's longest running campaigns. Actions first started in late '92, when ARC made their first application to expand the quarry. After numerous actions and campaigns John Gummer (The Environment Minister) blocked the application in May '94 - a major success for combined campaigning by EF!, Friends of the Earth, local druids and others.

ARC are now re-applying to expand the quarry. Local Freedom Network, Earth First! and Friends of the Earth groups have restarted actions and this major action will be in support of their efforts. A decision on the expansion will be made in the next 6 months. Our action now will highlight the strength of opposition to the quarry and hopefully prevent the need for a major, ongoing, direct action campaign to fight its expansion.



THE ACTION

It has been a while since there has been a "national" EF! mobilisation (apart from evictions) and this action gives us the opportunity to see just how great our potential is. This action should be the biggest of '95 and possibly the biggest since EF! started in Britain - if we ALL make it happen. Big direct actions, where we take the offensive are wonderfully empowering. This is the perfect opportunity to get new people involved, and to rejuvenate old cynics! It is really important that we all get down to Somerset. People are coming from as far afield as Denmark.

What's Going to Happen?

On Monday December 4th there will be a day of non-violent direct action at the quarry site. There will be many different actions happening. The purpose of the action will be to shut the quarry down for the day - i.e. to prevent the quarry working. The day before (Sunday Dec. 3rd) will be a day of training. There will be workshops and training for all of the actions plus legal briefings and background to the quarry and the campaign against it. The idea on Sunday is to get everyone fully prepared for Monday's action, so please arrive midday Sunday to allow a full day's training. Please start thinking of what actions you could do and if you're in a group plan it together. If you're coming on your own then you will be able to decide what you wish to do, during the training on the Sunday.

The location of the camp site will be announced from the 1st of December. Send a SAE to Avon Gorge EF! to receive a map or ring the contacts.

What Should We Bring?

We will be camping near the quarry so bring what you would take camping. Tents, sleeping bags, blankets, torches, first aid kits, waterproofs/warm clothing (remember it'll be December) etc. We are hoping to have a creche sorted plus a building/marqueses for workshops, but large tarps and marquees are always handy. We are also getting some catering sorted, but bring food and plenty of water incase it doesn't work out! A little money is also always handy. Please don't bring any dogs as there may be blasting going on and dogs will panic. The action will be EARLY on Monday morning so getting pissed up the night before probably won't help. Being drunk or dazed, in a dangerous quarry early in the morning, is not safe for you or others relying on you.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make your group a local contact for the action. Put your contact details on publicity (available from EF! Action Update) and organise locally - it'll also be good for your group/local campaign. Make it easy for new people to get in touch and get involved.

Organise transport from your area. Minibuses can be hired cheaply(ish). Get in touch with nearest Student Green Group, they can often hire buses from the Students' Union for free (or almost).

If you write for a publication or newsletter - advertise the action. Put it in the diary dates section. Write an article about it.

If you're not involved in any group, get in touch with the nearest (even if it doesn't seem that near) contact to you. They can tell you if there is a group going near you and help put you in touch. If there is no group near you, come along anyway! Get your friends to come along!

If you can't do anything else, we desperately need donations (cheques payable to "Hills Not Holes" at the South Somerset EF! address) to help cover costs - advertising, equipment etc.

Whatever you do, don't miss this action... it's gonna be massive!

CONTACTS:

Whatley/Somerset: 01935 825074 Devon: 01404 815729 South: 01635 521770 Avon: 01225 448556
East: 01508 531636 Wales: 01222 383363(Posters/Flyers) North: 0113 262 9365
Donations to: Hills Not Holes c/o South Somerset EF!, 31 Hamdon Close, Stoke-Sub-Hamdon, Somerset TA14 6QN.
Map of camp location: SAE to Avon Gorge EF!, Box 51, 82 Colston St, Bristol. BS1 5BB (before Nov 30th)

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Earth First! is a network of independent groups who believe in doing just that-putting the earth first. It is based on a concept of non-hierarchical organisation, direct action, and the empowerment of individuals to confront the ecological catastrophe facing our planet. The above contacts are groups in this network. Let Earth First! Action Update know of any alterations/additions/removals from the list. Alterations from last months are shown in bold and underlined groups may no longer exist. Telephone numbers given for international contacts include UK dialling codes. Please note that the international contacts given are not "in charge" of each country's actions but simply represent a way in to their direct action network.